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RTD UPDATES: Seeds

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1993 Seeding Rates and Costs Per Acre for Major Field Crops by States

- Prices paid by farmers for corn, soybeans, cotton, and potato seeds were up in 1993 from 1992.
- Higher seed prices, along with seeding rates per acre higher than or the same as in 1992, raised seed costs in 1993.
- In the 1993/94 crop year, seed use for eight major field crops is expected to be up 6 percent from a year earlier.

This issue of RTD UPDATES summarizes 1993 average seeding rates and costs per acre for the 10 major States growing corn, 8 growing soybeans, 6 growing spring wheat, 6 growing cotton, and 11 growing fall potatoes. The two major factors determining seed cost per acre are seeding rates and seed price. However, seed cost per acre varies among the surveyed States. This was attributed to variations in seeding rates and seed prices among States, due to geographic location and availability of moisture during growing season. Areas with plentiful moisture tend to support heavier seeding rates.

Average seeding rates and seed cost per acre for major field crops in 1993 were as follows: Corn--average seeding rate was 25,564 kernels per acre, while average seed cost per acre was \$22.72, up 6 percent from 1992, reflecting higher

corn seed prices and corn seeding rates; Soybeans--average seeding rate, in 1993, was 69 pounds per acre, whereas average seed cost per acre was \$16.29; Spring Wheat--average seed cost per acre was \$8.54, up 2 percent from last year, reflecting higher spring wheat price. The average seeding rate was 93 pounds per acre; Cotton--the average seeding rate, 16 pounds per acre, was the same as in 1992. The average seed cost per acre, on the other hand, was \$9.39, up 7 percent from 1992, reflecting higher cottonseed price in 1993; Fall potatoes--the average seeding rate was 22 cwt. per acre, whereas the seed cost per acre was \$202, up 43 percent from 1992. This was due to 24 percent jump in seed potato price.

In the 1992/93 crop year, total seed consumption for eight major crops (corn, sorghum, soybeans, barley, oats, wheat, rice, and cotton) was 5.9 million tons and is expected to be 6 percent higher in the 1993/94 crop year. USDA's prices-paid index for all seeds rose to 171 in 1993 from 165 in 1992. The prices-paid index for all seeds in 1994, at 175, was up 2.3 percent from the previous year. Higher commodity prices in 1994 due to strong demand, and scarcity of good quality seeds because of the 1993 flooding contributed to sharp increases in prices of some seeds.

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About RTD UPDATES

RTD UPDATES is a semimonthly series featuring data relating to agricultural resources, the environment, food safety, and technology. These UPDATES report recent data from surveys of farm operators and others knowledgeable about changing agricultural resource conditions, with only minimal interpretation or analysis. Please contact the individual listed at the end of the text for additional information about the data in this UPDATE. If you would like to be added to the mailing list or have other questions about RTD UPDATES, contact Richard Magleby, (202) 219-0436.

Fig. 1--Seed price index

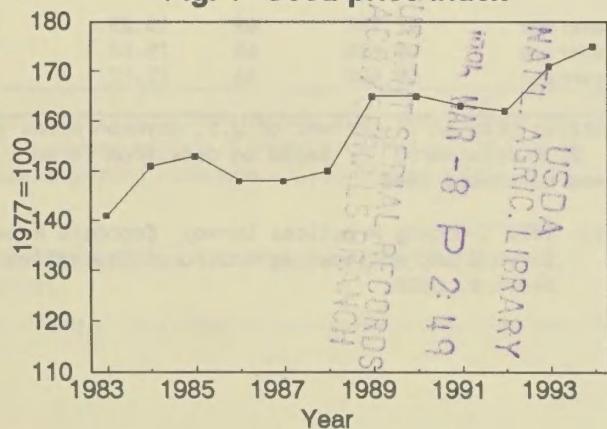


Table 1--Corn for grain seeding rates, plant population, and seed cost per acre, 1993 1/

States	Acres planted 2/	Rate per acre	Plant population per acre	Cost per acre
		1,000	Kernels	Number
Illinois	10,500	25,863	23,300	22.21
Indiana	5,600	25,604	23,200	21.92
Iowa	12,000	25,953	23,500	23.46
Michigan	2,500	24,767	22,900	23.45
Minnesota	6,300	27,438	25,100	25.25
Missouri	2,200	23,060	19,200	20.92
Nebraska	8,100	25,375	22,200	22.93
Nonirrigated	2,700	19,275	nr	16.39
Irrigated	5,600	27,953	nr	24.64
Ohio	3,350	26,601	23,300	23.41
South Dakota	3,400	20,619	17,700	18.43
Wisconsin	3,400	26,312	23,500	21.96
1993 average	57,350	25,564	22,390	22.72
1992 average	62,850	25,304	22,030	21.35
1991 average	60,350	24,906	22,080	20.79

nr = Not reported.

1/ States planted 78 percent of U.S. corn acres in 1993.

2/ Preliminary.

Table 3--Spring and durum wheat seeding rates, seed cost per acre, and percent of seed purchased, 1993 1/

States	Acres planted 2/	Rate per acre	Cost per acre 3/	Acres with purchased seed
		1,000	Pounds	Dollars
Spring:				
Minnesota	2,500	107	9.95	63
Montana	2,650	65	5.80	35
North Dakota	9,700	96	8.72	39
South Dakota	2,100	97	7.93	24
1993 average	16,950	93	8.54	40
1992 average	17,350	91	8.39	41
1991 average	13,500	89	6.52	32
Durum:				
North Dakota	1,950	100	7.69	40
1993 average	1,950	100	7.69	40
1992 average	2,200	96	7.56	36
1991 average	3,000	100	6.66	27

1/ States planted 94 percent of U.S. spring wheat and 89 percent of U.S. durum wheat acres in 1993. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Based on data from farmers who used purchased seed.

Table 2--Soybean seeding rates, seed cost per acre, and percent of seed purchased, 1993 1/

States	Acres planted 2/	Rate per acre	Cost per acre 3/	Acres with purchased seed
		1,000	Pounds	Dollars
Illinois	9,100	69	16.73	72
Indiana	4,900	72	16.35	81
Iowa	8,500	68	17.74	86
Minnesota	5,600	72	16.55	73
Missouri	4,200	65	15.07	56
Nebraska	2,500	65	16.57	79
Ohio	4,200	82	16.52	71
Arkansas	3,500	57	10.53	56
1993 average	42,500	69	16.29	73
1992 average	48,630	65	15.40	73
1991 average	49,650	64	15.07	73

1/ States planted 71 percent of U.S. soybean acres in 1993. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Based on data from farmers who used purchased seed.

Table 4--Cotton seeding rates, seed cost per acre, and percent of seed purchased, 1993 1/

States	Acres planted 2/	Rate per acre	Cost per acre 3/	Acres with purchased seed	
		1,000	Pounds	Dollars	Percent
Arizona		330	13	9.06	87
Arkansas	1,030	13	8.72	98	
California	1,030	17	15.59	86	
Louisiana	890	12	7.54	83	
Mississippi	1,380	12	8.33	100	
Texas	5,700	18	8.74	50	
1993 average	10,360	16	9.39	69	
1992 average	10,200	16	8.74	74	
1991 average	10,860	17	8.11	66	

1/ States planted 77 percent of U.S. upland cotton acres in 1993. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Based on data from farmers who used purchased seed.

Source: 1993 Cropping Practices Survey, Economic Research Service and National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

Table 5--Fall potato seeding rates, seed cost per acre, and percent purchased, 1993 1/

States	Acres planted 2/	Rate per acre	Cost per acre 3/	Acres with purchased seed
				1,000
Colorado	73	24	190	33
Idaho	751	22	226	93
Maine	81	23	209	59
Michigan	40	19	177	94
Minnesota	74	17	105	89
New York 4/	22	32	307	80
North Dakota	143	17	92	87
Oregon	50	21	213	82
Pennsylvania	21	20	217	95
Washington	145	23	228	100
Wisconsin	69	20	159	93
1993 Average	1,469	22	202	88
1992 Average	1,058	20	141	86
1991 Average	1,116	20	186	85

1/ States in survey planted 80 percent of the fall potato acreage in 1993. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Based on data from farmers who used purchased seed. 4/ Excludes Long Island.

Table 6--Seed use for major U.S. field crops 1/

Crops	1989/90	1990/91	1991/92	1992/93	1993/94	1992/93-1993/94
				Preliminary	Projected	1993/94
-----1,000 tons-----						
Corn	529	540	566	528	571	9
Sorghum	36	39	48	39	39	0
Soybeans	1,664	1,701	1,705	1,726	1,957	13
Barley	324	350	310	317	317	0
Oats	374	306	290	285	224	-21
Wheat	3,009	2,709	2,811	2,778	2,940	6
Rice	180	180	195	190	190	0
Cotton 2/	94	110	120	115	119	3
Total	6,210	5,935	6,040	5,974	6,357	6

1/ Crop marketing year. 2/ Upland cotton.

Source: 1993 Cropping Practices Survey, Economic Research Service and National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

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Table 7--April farm seed prices 1/

Item	Unit	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	Change 93-94
							Percent
Field seed:							
Corn	2/	69.90	70.20	71.80	72.70	73.40	1
Grain sorghum	\$/cwt.	69.90	71.20	72.30	74.30	82.10	10
Oats	\$/bu.	4.19	3.71	4.26	4.39	4.69	7
Barley	\$/bu.	5.25	4.55	5.10	5.00	5.18	4
Wheat (spring)	\$/bu.	6.05	4.72	6.06	5.98	7.37	23
Wheat (winter)	\$/bu.	8.01	6.89	7.41	7.73	7.90	2
Soybeans	\$/bu.	12.50	12.80	12.40	12.40	13.60	10
Cotton	\$/cwt.	54.30	58.20	59.70	62.70	63.50	1
Potatoes	\$/cwt.	11.00	9.70	6.95	8.60	10.20	19
Rice	\$/bu.		14.40	16.50	15.40	22.00	43
Forage seeds:							
Red clover	\$/cwt.	145.00	134.00	122.00	148.00	148.00	0
Fescue, tall 3/	\$/cwt.	85.10	89.00	67.80	87.00	71.50	-18
Orchardgrass	\$/cwt.	102.00	101.00	100.00	122.00	161.00	32
Ryegrass, annual	\$/cwt.	50.50	46.80	43.80	56.70	64.60	14
Timothy	\$/cwt.	82.00	66.40	66.30	80.60	76.00	-6
Lespedeza, sericea	\$/cwt.	134.00	101.00	92.80	92.10	169.00	83
Alfalfa, proprietary	\$/cwt.	253.00	266.00	252.00	269.00	266.00	-1
Seed price paid index (1977=100)		163	163	162	171	175	2

1/ Derived from the April survey of farm supply dealers conducted by NASS, USDA. 2/ \$/80,000 kernels. 3/ Alta and Kentucky 31.

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